

# OREGON CROP WEATHER



OREGON  
AGRICULTURAL  
STATISTICS  
SERVICE

Volume: 18-04  
Released: August 1, 2004  
Week Ending: August 2, 2004

Phone: 503 326-2131  
Toll Free: 1-800-338-2157  
E-Mail: [nass-or@nass.usda.gov](mailto:nass-or@nass.usda.gov)

National website at: <http://www.usda.gov/nass/pubs/pubs.htm>  
Oregon website at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/or>

**Weather:** The hot and dry weather conditions continued from last week. High temperatures were generally in the nineties, with overnight lows in the fifties. Precipitation was virtually non-existent, except for some scattered thunderstorms in Harney County and the Klamath Basin. Irrigation has picked up in many areas as a result of the hot and dry conditions. A wildfire was burning about 30 miles southeast of Burns, according to the National Interagency Fire Center, and currently was about 17 percent contained. Ontario recorded a weekly high of 210 growing degree days (base 50).

**Field Crops:** Haying continued. Grain harvest underway. Grass seed harvest continued. Harney County was finishing up alfalfa second cutting, grain hay, and grass hay. Klamath County started some grain harvest and continued with second hay cutting. Malheur County was harvesting wheat and wrapping up third cutting of alfalfa. Lane, Linn, Benton and Marion counties continued grass seed harvest. Marion County had wheat and spring oat harvest starting up with the third cutting alfalfa complete, and grass seed harvest continued there. Washington County had winter wheat harvest in full swing with high yields, red clover was past full bloom and seed setting, and most grass seed was harvested and bales of straw were removed from fields.

**Vegetables:** Garlic was being harvested. Summer squash, cucumbers, dill, carrots, and many specialty crops were for sale at farmers markets. Early tomatoes and sweet corn were ready in Marion County. Commercial sweet corn was growing rapidly and setting large ears. Potatoes were maturing rapidly in Washington County. Klamath County reports that potatoes were one percent knocked down.

**Nurseries and Greenhouses:** Higher than average temperatures required growers to do heavy irrigation. Nurseries were also feeding plants, repotting plants, and doing pot rotation. Bearded iris growers were harvesting tubers for shipment to customers. Growers getting ready for the "Far West" nursery show at the end of August.

**Fruit and Nuts:** Summer apples were picked in some parts of the Willamette Valley. Pears continued to size. Evergreen blackberry and blueberry harvest continued. Peaches were picked throughout the Willamette Valley and southern Oregon. Routine summer orchard operations continued in the Hood River Valley. Growers in the lower valley prepared for summer pear harvest. Southern coast cranberry growers monitored and mapped weed infestations. Crop development was good to excellent.

**Livestock, Range and Pasture:** Livestock were being rotated to late summer grazing areas throughout the State. Cattle in western Oregon were being moved to better pastures with irrigation. Dryland pastures were entering dormancy and are about used up for the season in many areas. Supplemental feeding was common. Livestock were being moved into areas where water was still available. Livestock continued to be reported in excellent condition throughout the State.

**Crop Progress - Week Ending 8/1/04**

	This week	Previous week	Last year	5 year average
Barley harvested (%)	30	20	62	40
Spring Wheat harvested (%)	22	15	56	34
Winter Wheat harvested (%)	51	23	64	54
Days suitable for fieldwork	7.0	6.8	—	—

**Soil Moisture - Week Ending 8/1/04**

	Very short	Short	Adequate	Surplus
Topsoil (%)	11	46	43	—
Subsoil (%)	11	42	47	—

**Crop Condition - Week Ending 8/1/04**

	Very poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Winter Wheat (%)	—	2	31	59	8
Barley (%)	—	2	28	62	8
Range & Pasture (%)	1	12	43	39	5

**CLACKAMAS:** Winter wheat harvest underway. Still some overripe grass hay being made. Evergreen blackberry picking advancing. Strawberry fields being renovated. New plantings being weeded. Pruning of old raspberry canes underway. Early apples ready. Pears still sizing. Nurseries are irrigating and repotting. Livestock in good condition and getting supplemental feed. Dryland pastures are going into summer dormancy.

**COOS/CURRY:** Some cranberry growers were monitoring and mapping weed infestations; crop development was good to excellent. Livestock mostly good. Winds were light at Brookings-Harbor and windy at times north of Gold Beach. Days since precipitation of 0.25 inches or more at Bandon: 53 days, at Brookings-Harbor: 65 days. Average air temperatures at coastal AgriMet weather stations ranged from 58.6 at Brookings-Harbor to 61.2 deg F at Bandon; highs ranged from 66.0 at Bandon to 72.6 deg F at Brookings-Harbor, and lows ranged from 51.4 at Brookings-Harbor to 55.8 deg F at Bandon. Precipitation ranged from 0.00 inches at Bandon to 0.00 inches at Brookings-Harbor. Growing degree days (base 50 deg F) ranged from 69 GDD at Brookings-Harbor to 81 GDD at Bandon. No rainfall during the week, with overcast/marine layer conditions in the mornings and sunny, warm and breezy afternoons later in the week.

**JACKSON:** Still some second cutting of alfalfa being cut. Wheat and barley being cut as it matures and is dry enough. Peach harvest is well underway and some early red pears being picked. Lots of wild blackberries now ripe. Sweet corn that was planted early is about ready to pick. Some summer squash is also being picked. Some early tomatoes starting to ripen. Farmers markets are getting busy with early vegetables, fruit and berries. Greenhouses still busy with summer maintenance and making plans for fall plants. Nurseries are still quite busy with sales of potted plants, balled and burlapped trees, and shrubs. Also lots of watering, feeding, and other plant maintenance. Cattle being moved to better pastures that have irrigation, or to high ranges. Pastures without irrigation are about all used up. Cattle and other livestock looking quite good. No rain, but lots of hot and dry days. This weather uses a lot of irrigation to keep crops growing. Daytime temperatures in the mid- to high nineties; nights in the mid-sixties.

**LANE/LINN/BENTON:** Grass seed still being harvested. Some fields being burned. Some day neutral strawberry varieties still being picked; mostly done. Blueberries 85 percent done, looks like a nice crop. Mid-season blackberry varieties ripening now. Lodi and gravenstein apple varieties being picked. Peaches coming on very strong. Nice quality and quantity. Check for eastern filbert blight on hazelnuts and look for brown branches. Nice crop and full production. Garlic being harvested. Late blight on tomatoes but nice greenhouse crops. Greenhouse and nursery sales are up due to milder weather. Outside crops are very slow this year.

**MARION:** Grass seed harvest continues. Wheat and spring oat harvest getting underway. Third cutting of alfalfa completed. Beginning to swath sugarbeet seed fields. Early peppermint harvest getting started. Non-irrigated crops continue to dry out and irrigated crops are taking additional waterings. Hot and dry. We are in the thick of western Oregon's summer drought. Good conditions for seed harvest. Combines moving into grain fields. Marionberries about finished. Evergreen blackberries next. Summer apples are coming on. Apples, pears and plums had such a successful pollination in the warm, dry March and April, so that the trees now cannot bear the weight of fruit. Early tomatoes and sweet corn are ready. Pastures are drying up. The cattle are depending on daily feeding.

**WASHINGTON:** Winter wheat harvest going full bore with yields close to 130 bushels per acre and with good weight, little shrinkage. Field corn setting ears. Red clover past full bloom and seed is setting. Most grass seed harvested and bales of straw removed from fields. Blackberries, blueberries and everbearing strawberries at farmers market stands and roadside stands. Squash, cucumbers, dill, carrots and many specialty crops at farmers markets. Potatoes maturing rapidly. Sweet corn at roadside stands and markets. Commercial sweet corn growing rapidly and setting large ears. Digging nursery crops and irrigating intensity. Pruning on larger trees mostly finished. Pastures drying out and supplemental feeding ongoing.

**YAMHILL:** Walnut growers sprayed for walnut husk fly. Peach harvest continues.

## EASTERN OREGON

**BAKER:** Haying continues. Grain turning, but still about 10 days from harvest. It's hot!

**HARNEY:** Alfalfa second cutting finishing up. Grain hay finishing up, as is grass hay. Irrigating where they can. Cattle being moved. Hot and dry. Thunderstorms scattered across the county.

**HOOD RIVER:** Routine summer orchard operations continued throughout the Hood River Valley. Growers in the lower valley prepared orchards for the summer pear harvest.

**KLAMATH:** Some grain harvest has begun. Thunder and rain showers visited the Klamath Basin on Sunday morning. Weather continues to be hot. Crops look good. Second hay cutting continues. Some grain harvest could start next week. Potatoes are one percent knocked down. Livestock, range and pasture have limited movement of yearlings sold earlier in year.

**LAKE:** Hot temperatures throughout the week, with no precipitation. Second cutting of alfalfa down in most of the county.

**MALHEUR:** Clear and hot most of the week. Wheat harvest is progressing nicely. Third cutting of alfalfa is mostly done. Very little rain damage. Range in the south end of the county is drying up very fast. Cattle are being moved to areas where there is water.

**MORROW:** Mountain pastures are still in pretty good shape, for the most part. They are starting to dry up and the quality is going down.

**SHERMAN:** Grain harvest continues, although the June rains did add some more green to certain fields or spots in fields and that is causing some delays in cutting. Some growers are cutting around green spots and will come back to them when they mature and dry down. Yields are a mixed bag. While almost all exceed the yields of the last 5 years, some are closer to average, while others approach record highs. Seems that there was a narrow window of opportunity for best seeding conditions and if you hit it you hit pay dirt. If earlier or later than this window allowed last fall, yields are much closer to average and more disappointing. All agree that June rain was indeed a million dollar rain. Second hay cutting is up. Many people eagerly waiting for and anticipating the renewal of the Energy Bill and a return to tax credits for green power development. This will spur wind projects and contribute heavily to economic development in the area.

**WALLOWA:** Not much change from last week. Dryland producers are gearing up for harvest.

**WEATHER DATA FOR SELECTED STATIONS IN OREGON WEEK ENDING August 1, 2004 (as of 11:00 am)**

STATION	AIR TEMPERATURE				GROWING DEGREE DAYS BASE-50F		LAST WEEK PRECIP			SEASON CUM PRECIPITATION			
	LO	HI	AVG	DFN	TOTAL	DFN	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	DAYS	TOTAL INCHES	DFN	PCT NORMAL	DAYS
<b>COASTAL AREAS</b>													
Astoria/Clatsop	54	68	61	2	82	5	0.03	-0.18	1	61.07	-4.06	94	190
Crescent City	54	64	58	-1	60	-3	0.00	-0.11	0	53.42	-10.87	83	151
Florence	46	75	62	2	85	10	0.00	-0.18	0	70.43	-4.74	94	179
North Bend	54	68	61	2	80	10	0.02	-0.09	2	64.63	2.25	104	172
Tillamook	47	69	61	3	77	14	0.00	-0.28	0	83.46	-3.49	96	193
<b>WILLAMETTE VALLEY</b>													
Corvallis	54	91	73	7	161	42	0.00	-0.14	0	30.69	-11.18	73	131
Eugene	48	92	70	2	141	15	0.00	-0.14	0	37.95	-10.38	79	148
Hillsboro	49	91	70	4	139	20	0.00	-0.14	0	29.75	-6.79	81	154
McMinnville	48	92	71	4	146	27	0.00	-0.08	0	32.94	-9.52	78	152
Portland AP	57	89	72	4	156	23	0.00	-0.14	0	28.69	-6.56	81	150
Salem	53	91	71	4	149	30	0.00	-0.10	0	37.71	-0.72	98	157
<b>SW VALLEYS</b>													
Grants Pass	56	98	77	5	188	27	0.00	-0.07	0	28.12	-2.43	92	115
Medford	57	99	79	6	205	37	0.00	-0.07	0	19.10	0.75	104	112
Roseburg AP	57	93	74	5	172	32	0.00	-0.07	0	33.00	0.91	103	138
<b>NORTH CENTRAL</b>													
Condon	46	92	72	5	152	33	0.00	-0.12	0	16.66	3.28	125	94
Heppner	51	94	75	6	179	39	0.00	-0.07	0	13.57	0.33	102	130
Hermiston AP	55	99	79	6	203	35	0.00	-0.07	0	10.54	1.96	123	89
John Day	52	96	75	6	178	42	0.01	-0.13	1	12.05	-0.37	97	114
Moro	52	93	73	4	160	27	0.00	-0.07	0	12.15	1.48	114	92
Pendleton AP	56	98	78	4	194	26	0.00	-0.07	0	13.96	2.45	121	102
The Dalles	60	98	79	12	204	78	0.00	-0.07	0	13.73	1.70	114	101
<b>SOUTH CENTRAL</b>													
Bend	52	92	71	8	151	53	0.00	-0.11	0	12.86	1.72	115	81
Burns AP	44	94	71	4	146	27	0.10	-0.02	2	8.74	-0.60	94	89
Klamath Falls	49	90	69	1	136	6	0.10	0.00	1	12.56	-0.36	97	97
Lakeview	43	91	68	0	127	4	0.01	-0.06	1	8.87	-6.23	59	63
Redmond	43	96	71	5	148	29	0.00	-0.01	0	9.43	1.39	117	83
<b>NORTHEAST</b>													
Baker City	40	94	68	0	127	1	0.00	-0.14	0	8.11	-1.86	81	99
Joseph	49	94	70	9	143	64	0.00	-0.19	0	17.52	-6.27	74	129
La Grande AP	46	97	71	0	147	0	0.00	-0.14	0	12.86	-3.71	78	100
Union	47	96	71	4	146	20	0.00	-0.14	0	15.11	2.22	117	128
<b>SOUTHEAST</b>													
Ontario	59	99	80	3	210	21	0.00	-0.07	0	8.62	-0.64	93	74
Rome	48	100	76	4	184	24	0.07	0.00	1	7.12	-0.69	91	78

Summary based on National Weather Service data.  
 Season Cumulative Precip Starts: Monday, September 1, 2003.  
 DFN=Departure from normal (using 1961-90 normals period).

Precipitation Days = Days with precipitation of 0.01 inch or more.  
 Precipitation (rain or melted snow/ice) in inches.  
 Air Temperatures in Degrees Fahrenheit.  
 Copyright 2004: AWIS, Inc. All Rights Reserved.

Janice A. Goodwin, Director

Oregon Crop Weather 18-04  
 Kevin Young, Math Statistician

Oregon Agricultural  
 Statistics Service  
 1735 Federal Bldg., 1220 SW 3rd  
 Portland, Oregon 97204

FIRST CLASS MAIL  
 POSTAGE & FEES PAID  
 NATIONAL AG STATISTICS  
 PERMIT NO. G-38